

TRANSCRIPT OF BROADCAST
by
Fulton Lewis, Jr.

Station WGMS at 7-71:5 P. M.
1 January 1958

The story of Radio Free Europe and its affiliates and the so-called Crusade for Freedom, which is the fund-collecting organization which supports it. What I have said thus far is reporting by me--the fact is I have seen them and found them out. Tonight, I think it would be helpful to you to know something about the reaction that has been forthcoming and what other people in a position to add intimate first-hand knowledge of the facts and even first-hand experience have to say on this subject.

In the first place, in all the tremendous mountain of mail that I have received, and tremendous it is, I have yet to find the first letter that challenges or disputes anything that I have said over this microphone. The Crusade for Freedom, to be sure, has compiled a self-justifying statement, attempting to answer the facts that I have presented and attempting to deny the charges that I have made. This is to be expected. The paid money-raisers in that organization naturally want to protect their jobs because they never had it so good. They are living high indeed on the hog. Some of these self-justifying statements I already have answered over this microphone, as I did one of them last night. The others I will answer and debunk for you in the future, and I am compiling a complete answer to all of them, which I shall send to every individual member and officer of the board of directors of the Crusade for Freedom and the Free Europe Committee in the faint hope at least that they will re-examine themselves in the light of lending their names to the sponsorship of these operations.

In the meantime, I have turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation my entire file of information on the two organizations, with one lone proviso that, in a handful of cases in which individuals have asked that I protect the source of information, the names are being withheld by me. I might add that in no case of this kind has the information been unduly important or essential.

This mail, by the way, has not come from the United States alone. I have letters from South America and from Europe, as well, from people who have heard about this series and who have written in with comments or factual contributions.

But let me begin with a letter from Mr. John A. Buttar (sic) in Batatuba, Brazil. He says the following and I quote: "I myself protest against broadcasts to Czechoslovakia through Radio Free Europe by Czech refugees who once collaborated with Communists, bringing Czechoslovakia under Communist yoke and then took refuge in the United States or other countries. These people are making propaganda in behalf of their socialistic ideas of nationalization of industries and property of individuals, and they use Radio Free Europe for such propaganda. They wish to do themselves the same thing that has been done already by the Communists. What will the people of Czechoslovakia think of the Western world if they hear such propaganda through Radio Free Europe? Are the citizens of the United States willing to pay for such broadcasting and keep these people among them?" Very truly yours, John Buttar (sic).

And here is one from Dr. Joseph Geishka (sic) of Charta, Ohio, which is to me particularly important. Dear sir: "It was with great satisfaction that I was able to listen to your recent commentaries regarding the situation existing in the Czechoslovak division of Radio Free Europe. I was also pleased to hear you mention Mr. Ferdinand Ferutka, against whom I was warning the confidence officials of the Free Europe Committee in New York during the last several years--but in vain. I am a political exile who left Czechoslovakia after the Communist coup d'etat in February of 1948. With Mr. Ferutka, I am well acquainted personally as well as politically. Mr. Ferutka and I were both members of several exile organizations until December of 1956, when I resigned all posts in the Council of Free Czechoslovakia."

Let me interject here that Mr. Ferdinand Ferutka is head of the Czechoslovakian desk of Radio Free Europe. Continuing with the letter. "Being a Christian Democrat, I never agreed with Mr. Ferutka's socialistic views, neither did I approve of his benevolent attitude toward the Communists in Czechoslovakia before 1948. In particular, I do reject the idea that the Communist tyranny can be crushed in any country behind the iron curtain by replacing it with socialism, of which idea Mr. Ferutka is the most fervent protagonist. Therefore, I feel that it is my duty to support you, my dear sir, in your courageous fight against any tendency which would misrepresent the political views of my people in the eyes of American fighters against Communism. As former president of the Slovak Liberty party, I express my sincere thanks to you on behalf of all my political friends here in exile as well as on behalf of those who are suffering the Communist persecution in Czechoslovakia." Sincerely yours, Dr. Joseph Geishka (sic).

And here is one from the editor of a foreign-language newspaper on Long Island, named Forma. "Your recent articles regarding the pinkos in Radio Free Europe deserve the attention of anyone holding a responsible position in the American propaganda agency. We, the refugees from behind the iron curtain, have been calling to their attention many times the infiltration of these agencies by fellow travelers, but our voice was suppressed and ignored by them. We have been treated in a way which resembles the treatment we received by the Communists at home. We have the impression that these agencies are operated by people who are determined to persecute any expression of genuine anti-Communism. Your disclosure about the situation in the Czechoslovakian desk of Radio Free Europe may be referred to as a pattern for the rest of the nationality divisions of that agency. I am enclosing a few articles published in the organ of the Bulgarian national front in the USA and Canada, which you will find supports your thesis."

And this from the Council for the Liberation of Southern Hungary. Sir: "We heard your comments concerning the Free Europe committee on today's radio program with great satisfaction. Finally you have given a true picture about this organization to the American public. This organization supported from the very beginning only those political groups and leaders of the European emigration which had cooperated with the Communists after 1945 and thereby assisted in the gradual communization of their countries and, at the same time, saved face for the Communist party and enabled them finally to get total control."

These are the people who know what they are talking about because they've had first-hand contact with the Radio Free Europe operation. This is their appraisal without any solicitation from me whether that free Europe operation is a legitimate private enterprise project, as advertised, to extend the message of freedom behind the iron curtain or not. And they say, ladies and gentlemen, that it is not!

In addition to having turned my material on Radio Free Europe and Crusade for Freedom over to the FBI, ladies and gentlemen, as I told you, I also have contacted Chairman James Eastman of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, suggesting that he undertake an immediate investigation of the entire operation, everyone involved in it, everyone involved in the original organization, and all corporations and other organizations contributing to the support of it. Senator William Jenner of Indiana, a member of the committee, has informed me that he wants to go over the material with me as soon as he returns to Washington this week end. Senator Stiles Bridges, chairman of the Republican Policy Committee in the Senate, has indicated the same interest on his part. I will of course keep you fully informed on all developments in this connection.